

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 04755 120929Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8088
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, ID
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR'S COMMENTS ON LOS CONFERENCE

REF: JAKARTA 3920

1. I HAD A FEW MINUTES ALONE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA ON APRIL 12 FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF OUR AID AGREEMENTS TO DISCUSS THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I TOLD MOCHTAR THAT I WAS CONCERNED TO NOTE THAT HE HAD ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS MADE CRITICAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT OUR POSITION IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND HAD AT ONE POINT SAID THAT WE WERE USING OUR PENDING DEEP SEABED LEGISLATION AS A "CLUB" OVER THE CONFERENCE. I REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT, WHICH I HAD FORWARDED TO MOCHTAR, AND SAID THAT WE WERE NOT USING THIS AS A PRESSURE POINT AND DID NOT IN FACT ANTICIPATE PASSAGE OF ANY LEGISLATION UNTIL THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAD ENDED. WE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES DURING THE CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 04755 120929Z

SUPPORTED THE LEGISLATION IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT OUR INDUSTRY IN MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR EXPLOITATION OF THIS NEW RESOURCE WHETHER OR NOT A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY IS NEGOTIATED.

2. MOCHTAR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH

AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON. (MOCHTAR LEAVES JAKARTA ON FRIDAY, APRIL 14, FOR GENEVA.) HE NOTED THAT THE FACT WE WERE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE PENDING LEGISLATION TOGETHER WITH DARMAN'S ARTICLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD LED HIM TO FEEL THAT WE WERE NO LONGER TAKING THE NEGOTIATIONS SERIOUSLY. I EXPLAINED THAT DARMAN'S VIEWS DO NOT REFLECT USG POLICY AND REITERATED THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, BUT THAT WE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IF A SATISFACTORY TREATY CANNOT BE CONCLUDED.

3. MOCHTAR EXPRESSED HIS SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE HASSLE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEETING, NOTING THAT IN HIS VIEW AMERASINGHE'S EFFECTIVENESS HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED. HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE CONFERENCE COULD FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS THINGS NOW STAND AND SAID HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY SRI LANKA WAS BEING SO ADAMANT IN REMOVING AMERASINGHE AS HEAD OF ITS DELEGATION AND WHY AMERASINGHE WAS, FOR HIS PART, DESPERATELY HOLDING ONTO THE JOB. HE FELT THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR AMERASINGHE TO QUIETLY RESIGN AND LEAVE THE WAY OPEN FOR A MORE ACCEPTABLE CHAIRMAN.

4. MOCHTAR REITERATED AS I WAS LEAVING THAT AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAS PLAYED A VERY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT HE (MOCHTAR) LOOKS FORWARD TO CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH HIM IN GENEVA.

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PAGE 03 JAKART 04755 120929Z

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